

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) Fish and Wildlife Department propose to implement a program to inventory, map and analyze shrub-steppe habitat for the sustainability and conservation of sagebrush, bunch grass and riparian communities on the Colville Indian Reservation. Land cover data will be generated using Remote Sensing/GIS technologies and field sampling to collect information for: 1) Baseline data on existing conditions; 2) tracking habitat alterations; 3) environmental analysis; and 4) identification of potential habitat improvements and land acquisition. The data gathered will also aid in identifying habitat use areas and threats to, or recovery of, Federal/State listed species or species of concern (ex. Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Western sage grouse *Centrocercus urophasianus*, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse *Typanuchus phasianellus columbianus*, Brewer's sparrow *Spizella breweri*, Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*, Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*, Sage sparrow *Amphispiza belli*, Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus* and Northern sagebrush lizard *Sceloporus graciosus*) that historically occur, or occurred, on shrub-steppe habitats within the bounds of the Reservation. This information will be incorporated into the overall CCT Fish and Wildlife Department Plan (CCT Fish and Wildlife 2004) to be used in guiding land management practices at the *Resource Management Unit (RMU) scale and subsequently at the Watershed Management Unit (WMU) scale.

This program proposal is also aligned with other Upper Columbia River Basin regional planning efforts such as the Bonneville Power Administration's Sub-basin Planning (2004) and The Nature Conservancy/Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Eco-regional Planning (2004) processes. The practical and ecological benefits of this program will further the management of shrub-steppe conservation on a local and regional scale to: 1) protect and manage fragile and decreasing shrub-steppe habitat; 2) identify and control the proliferation of invasive plants; 3) assure cover for shrub-steppe birds; as well as 4) protecting water quality for salmonids.

*There are 15 Resource Management Units (RMUs) on the Colville Reservation. The RMUs are delineated by major watershed boundaries and are comprised of multiple Watershed Management Units (WMUs).